

ENERGY STAR® Fast Facts



The Symbol for Energy Efficiency

Fast Facts about ENERGY STAR Qualified Office Equipment

- Office equipment, computers in particular, is the fastest growing source of electricity consumption in businesses and homes. Office equipment currently uses about 7 percent of all commercial sector electricity. Much of this energy is wasted, as computers are only in use an average of 4 hours during the business day, and 25 percent are left running at night and on weekends.
- ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment powers down to a “sleep” mode when not in use. Any action -- movement of the mouse, a keyboard stroke, an incoming message, fax, or print job -- reactivates the equipment. Because of the “sleep” mode, ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment uses only about half as much electricity as standard equipment.
- A typical computer, monitor, printer, fax machine, and medium speed copier cost about \$185 annually to operate (not including the cost of paper). Operating similar equipment that meets the ENERGY STAR specifications costs about \$97.
- Over its lifetime, ENERGY STAR qualified equipment in a single home office (with a computer, monitor, printer, and fax) can save enough electricity to light an entire home for more than two years.
- EPA estimates if everyone bought ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment, by the year 2010, the annual pollution prevented would be equivalent to taking more than 6.5 million cars off the road each year.
- When ENERGY STAR qualified monitors are “sleeping”, most of their electronics are turned off. This means they will emit fewer electromagnetic fields (EMF).
- Another benefit to the low-power mode is a reduction in the amount of heat generated. This can lengthen the life of equipment. In offices, this reduction also contributes to a cooler and more comfortable work space, and can translate to savings on air conditioning costs.
- EPA has signed partnership agreements with industry-leading manufacturers who produce 85 - 95 percent of the office equipment sold in the United States and around the world.
- Most computer users don't know that while a screen saver is running, so is their computer, at full power. Screen savers prevent the power management feature from engaging, and prevent any energy and money savings from being realized, even on an ENERGY STAR® labeled computer.